

Brecon Borough Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1959



Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George,M.R.C.S.,
Guildhall,Brecon. L.R.C.P.,
T.N.Brecon 26. D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector.....S.Jinks,
Sanitary Inspector's

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's
Examination Joint Board,Meat and Other Foods Certificate of the Royal
Sanitary Institute;Testamur of the Cardiff Technical College.

Brecon Borough Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1959

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Borough of Brecon during the year 1959.

In this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/60(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area. 2868 acres. The Borough of Brecon, which has an area of 2868 acres, is a county town of a shire of it's own name, containing the County Offices of various departments and a large military camp and Barracks. The town consists of the parishes of St. Johns' and St. Marys' on the north side of the river Usk, these parishes being divided by the Honddu stream; and of the parish known as St. Davids' Within and also, more familiarly, as Llanfaes, which lies south of the river Usk and eastward of the confluence of the Tarrell stream with that river.

The two parts of the town are connected by an ancient stone bridge over the Usk while to the south is the national Park, the Brecon Beacons and surrounding countryside.

<u>Population.</u>	Census 1931.....	5332.
	Census 1951.....	6466.
	Estimated midsummer 1959.....	6460.

The Registrar General's estimates for the last ten years are shown below.

1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959.

6562. 6593. 6671. 5933. 6150. 6180. 6190. 6370. 6080. 6460.

The population increased between the last two census years and since then there has been a tendency in the downward direction. The figure for 1959, however, showed a marked increase over the previous year.

Inhabited houses. The number of inhabited houses was 1765 giving an average per house of 3.4 persons.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	51	42	93	
Illegitimate	-	1	1	
	51	43	94	14.5

The corrected rate was 15.0

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.5
The district rate was therefore lower than the national average but higher than the district deathrate, which is a satisfactory feature.

Illegitimacy. One illegitimate birth was registered during the year.

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births.....1.05%

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	32	45	77	11.9

The corrected rate was 11.4

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.6
The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and also lower than the district birthrate.

Still Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 live & still births
	2.	1.	3.	30.9

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 20.7
The district rate was therefore higher than the national average.

Total Live and Still Births.....97.

Infant Deaths. There was one death registered during the year in a
child of under one year of age

Total Mortality Rate.....	10.6
Legitimate Mortality Rate.....	10.7
Illegitimate Mortality Rate.....	0
Neo-natal Rate.....	10.7
Early neo-natal Rate.....	10.7
Peri-natal Mortality Rate.....	41.2

Maternal Deaths. There were no deaths which could be attributed to
childbirth, which was an extremely satisfactory feature.
Maternal Mortality Rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease.....	Nil.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....	One.
Other forms tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Cancer.....	8.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths.	Males.....32.	Females.....45.
	Males.	Females.

Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1.....	0.
Other infective diseases.....	2.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	2.....	0.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	3.....	3.
Diabetes.....	0.....	1.
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	2.....	9.
Coronary disease.....	8.....	8.
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1.....	1.
Other heart disease.....	9.....	13.
Other circulatory disease.....	0.....	1.
Influenza.....	2.....	2.
Pneumonia.....	0.....	3.
Bronchitis.....	1.....	0.
Other defined causes.....	1.....	3.
Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	0.....	1.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged
List of Causes of Deaths.

The following table shows the number of deaths from tuberculosis and
cancer in recent years.

	Cancer	Tuberculosis
1950.....	5.....	3..
1951.....	10.....	3.
1952.....	14.....	1.
1953.....	14.....	0.
1954.....	12.....	0.
1955.....	15.....	2.
1956.....	19.....	2.
1957.....	15.....	0.
1958.....	11.....	1.
1959.....	8.....	1.

Brecon Borough Council

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in the public health officers of the Council during the year. Mr. S. Jinks remained as your Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Cardiff Laboratory and any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was also performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. Milk sampling was performed by the Cardiff Laboratory, whilst the Brecon War Memorial Hospital made use of the Beck Laboratory, Swansea. The Cardiff Laboratory was used for the examination of milk for the presence of tuberculosis.

Nursing and other facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administers the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the Borough, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. There is also the St. David's Hospital which deals with cases of chronic illness.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remains the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the Borough suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox, arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply. Until the 31st. March 1959, the Borough Council were responsible for the supply of water in their district. After this date the Council became a constituent member of the new South East Breconshire Water Board which is now responsible for the supply of water in the Borough.

Piped Supply. All the houses in the Borough, with the exception of 16 of those on the extreme borders have a tapped supply to the house. The 16 others have their own private supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the Borough is treated by downward filtration and the effluent finally passes into the River Usk. The effluent is unsatisfactory and the Council have instructed a Consulting Engineer to prepare plans and details of a new sewage works. The report has now been received and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Number of visits made by the Public Health Inspector in connection with drainage work.....137.

Closet Accommodation. The number of houses within the Borough unconnected with the sewage system was 31.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the weekly collection and disposal of house refuse, this work being done by the Council under the supervision of your Surveyor. The refuse is disposed of by tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Public Health Inspector, Mr. S. Jinks. At this juncture I must state that I am indebted to the Public Health Inspector for the figures and details of his work contained in this report. This information has proved most useful in the preparation of this report.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	88.
Number of complaints investigated.....	88.
Number of premises inspected.....	104.
Number of premises revisited.....	29.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	11.
for (a) Structural defects.....	11.
(b) Sanitary defects.....	0.
Number of Statutory Notices served.....	0.

Result of Notices served.

Number completed.....	10.
Number in hand of builder.....	1.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of licensed premises.....	25.
Number of visits to such premises...	49.

Particular attention has been given to the provision of sufficient and suitable sanitary accommodation and proper washing facilities.

Details. Provision of sanitary conveniences and washing facilities.

Number of premises with separate sanitary accommodation.....	24.
Number of premises without separate sanitary accommodation.....	1.
Number of premises with proper washing facilities.....	24.
Number of premises without proper washing facilities.....	1.

Shops.

Number of shops in the district.....	149.
Number of inspections by Public Health Inspector.....	45.

Factories.

Number of factories on the register.....	57.
Number of inspections made.....	39.
Number of defects found.....	1.
Number of notice served.....	1.
Number of defects remedied.....	1.

<u>Camping Sites.</u> Number of caravans stationed and used.....	11.
Number of licences to erect/station a caravan granted.....	11.
Number of inspections by Public Health Inspector.....	15.

There is also one recognised yard which is mainly used by caravans during the Statutory Fairs of May and November.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

All premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T. preparations which have been found to be very successful.

Number of premises inspected.....	4.
Number of premises disinfested.....	4.

Old Metal Dealer's Order,1952.

Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 came into force on the 25th, April 1952.
Number of registered dealers.....1.

Rodent Control.One part-time Rodent Operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Details of Inspections and Treatments
Premises
Business Dwelling Municipal Agricultural

Number of inspections....	351.....	1392.....	26.....	11.
Number infested.....	6.....	53.....	15.....	4.
a)Major infestations.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
b)Minor infestations.....	6.....	53.....	15.....	4.
Number of treatments.....	6.....	53.....	15.....	4.

Sewer Treatment.During the year two maintenance treatments were carried out. Details are given below.

1st.Treatment 2nd.Treatment

Number of manholes.....	177.....	177.
Number of manholes baited.....	16.....	19.
Number of prebait takes.....	6.....	7.

Pet Animals Act,1951.

Number of licensed pet shops.....1.

Section 4. Housing.

1.Housing Need. Applicants for Council Houses.There is still a definite demand for housing accommodation in the Borough.It must be remembered that apart from the normal residents the demand is increased due to the fact that the town is a military and administrative centre for Government and other departments.

Bearing in mind the standard laid down by the Central Housing Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health on the question of "Housing Need" in their report "Selection of Tenants" and with particular reference to their standard for overcrowding based on bedroom deficiency, the Council's waiting list showed the following details.

Type of Applicant	Total	Residing in Borough	From outside Borough
Without separate accommodation and bedroom deficiency	2	2	0
Without separate accommodation	8	7	1
T.B.Applicants	3	2	1
Unfit house,statutory overcrowding and bedroom deficiency	2	1	1
Unfit house and bedroom deficiency	2	2	0
Other houses,bedroom deficiency	6	6	0
Other applicants	37	34	3
Applicants for Aged Persons Bungalows	29	25	4
Unfit house	12	10	2
Total	101	89	12

Housing Consolidated Regulations. Article 31.

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....52.
2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.....11.
3. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to
 - (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or
 - (b) the making of demolition or closing orders.....9.
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works.....0.
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.....0.
6. The number of demolition or closing orders.....0.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking under sub-section 3 of section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 was accepted....9.
8. The number of houses demolished.....11.

Allocation of Houses.

During the year the following letting of houses took place:-

<u>For General Needs and Relettings</u>	Bryn de Winton	1
	Adelaide Gardens	1
	(Bungalow)	
	Coryton Close (Reema)	7
<u>For Slum Clearance</u>	Coryton Close (Reema)	3

Post War Housing.

1. By Borough Council.

a) Houses completed

<u>Ffynnon Dewi</u>	64 houses
No. of 4 bedrooms	6
No. of 3 bedrooms	52
No. of 2 bedrooms	6
<u>Adelaide Gardens</u>	51 houses
No. of 4 bedrooms	4
No. of 3 bedrooms	38
No. of bungalows	9
<u>Bryn de Winton</u>	40 houses
No. of 3 bedrooms	40
<u>Coryton Close</u>	24 houses
No. of 3 bedrooms	24
<u>Coryton Close (Reema)</u>	10 houses
No. of 3 bedrooms	10

b) Future Housing. A further 38 Reema dwellings are being erected

2. By Private Enterprise.

Total number of houses erected in the year.....11.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Number of applications approved for Discretionary Grants.....11.
 Number of applications approved for Standard Grants.....3.

Housing Inspections by Public Health Inspector.

Number of house to house inspections.....159.
 Number of visits to Council Houses.....224.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Number of registered dairies in the Borough.....	6.
Number of distributors licensed by Borough Council.....	8.
Number of producer/distributors in Borough.....	1.
Number of producer/distributors from Rural District.....	0.
Total number distributing in Borough.....	9.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations.

Number of dealers authorised by Borough Council to use Special Designation Tuberculin Tested.....	3.
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Milk(Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)Regulations.

Number of dealers authorised by Borough Council to use Designation Pasteurised.....	2.
Number of dealers authorised by Borough Council to use Designation Tuberculin Tested(Pasteurised).....	6.
Number of dealers authorised to use Designation Sterilised....	2.

Record of Inspections.

Number of visits to dairies.....	30.
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Meat. There is a Public Slaughterhouse in the Borough which is sufficient to meet the demands of the district and neighbourhood. The slaughterhouse has been leased to the Fatstock Marketing Corporation, but all its facilities are available to local butchers.

Meat Inspections.

Number of inspections.....	650.
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Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole and Part

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	532	23	94	18432	757	-
Number inspected	532	23	94	18432	757	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	8	69	5	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	178	18	8	1872	13	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis or cysticerci	33.7	91.3	17.02	10.5	2.4	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	25	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.19	-	-	-	3.3	-

Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
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Cysticerai

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total Weight Condemed of Home Killed Meat in Lbs.weight for T.B.

Whole carcasses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part carcasses	-	-	-	-	254	-
Organs	28	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>28</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>254</u>	<u>-</u>

For Other Diseases.

Whole carcasses	327	1316	400	1848	264	-
Part carcasses	334	224	14	201	140	-
Organs	2506	393	181	4865	157	-
Total Weight	<u>3167</u>	<u>2933</u>	<u>595</u>	<u>6914</u>	<u>561</u>	<u>-</u>

Other Foods.

Type of Food Premises	Number	Inspections	Notices	No.registered under Sec.14. F.&D.Act.1938
Cafe/Restaurant	19	22	-	-
Grocers	24	19	-	-
Butchers	10	23	-	9
Wet Fish	2	4	-	-
Fried Fish	3	12	-	-
Greengrocers	5	9	-	-
Sweets	7	7	-	-
Bakehouses	5	13	1	-
Icecream Producer/ Retailers	1	5	-	1
Icecream Retailers	41	22	-	38
School Canteens	7	5	-	-

Ice Cream(Heat Treatment)Regulations.

Number of inspections of premises.....	13.
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination.....	1.

Other Foods Condemed.

Number of tins condemned.....	312.
Number of lbs. of other foods condemned.....	757.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

Frequent inspections have been made of food premises and improvement affected in a number of premises.

Method of Disposal of Condemed Food.

- 1.The Borough Council require users of the slaughterhouse to inform them where meat is disposed.Meat is stained with a green vegetable dye and disposed of to a processing firm.
- 2.Condemed tins etc.are disposed of by burying in the Council tip.

Brecon Borough Council

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year;

Scarlet Fever.....	5 cases
Influenzal Pneumonia.....	1 case
Measles.....	9 cases
Food Poisoning.....	1 case
Erysipelas.....	1 case

As seen, the Borough was fairly free from infectious disease during the year. No case was admitted to hospital and only one proved fatal, this being the case of erysipelas. The case of food poisoning was caused by salmonelle typhi-murium and the actual cause of the case was not established.

Number of cases investigated by Public Health Inspector.....6.
Number of disinfections including those required for tuberculosis..8.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital Swansea for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	39.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....	11.
Number of cases removed as disease arrested.....	4.
Number of cases removed as left district.....	3.
Number of deaths during the year.....	1.
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....	42.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:-

1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959.

13. 11. 6. 4. 2 6. 5. 8. 6. 11.

Of these 11 cases, 4 were transfers from other districts and 2 were old cases returned to register.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council became responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon an adequate level of immunisation being maintained. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE BOROUGH OF BRECON IN THE COUNTY OF BRECONSHIRE.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

Part 1 of the Act

1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect ions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	22	17	1	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	22	-	-
iii. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	56	39	1	-

2.- Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two,three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two,three or more Cases)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness(S1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-

There was no outwork done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health